

In The Swim

Information for commercial pool operators and owners



CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Fall 2019

Quick facts and observations

- ◇ Permits are not transferable. If you recently purchased a recreational water facility, the health department must be notified.
- ◇ Remodels, including pool structures, barriers and clubhouses, must go through health department plan review.
- ◇ Filter maintenance includes periodically replacing your sand media and cartridges. Typically, sand should be changed every three to five years.
- ◇ Some of the reagents used for daily testing must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Refer to the Safety Data Sheets for proper disposal requirements.
- ◇ House Bill 2822 is now in effect! Misrepresenting a pet as a service animal in Washington is a civil infraction that carries a fine of up to \$500. Pets are not allowed in a public pool or on the pool deck. Service animals are permitted to be in the facility and on deck, however are not allowed in the pool or spa water.

When should a pool/spa be closed for safety?

Your pool and spa must be closed due to poor water quality when:

- Water clarity is hazy and visibility of the main drains when standing at the shallow end is impaired.
- Free chlorine is outside the acceptable ranges.
- pH is outside the acceptable ranges.
- Water temperature is 106°F or higher.



Your pool and spa must be closed due to unsecured barriers when:

- The gates /doors leading out to the pool deck are not self-closing or self-latching.

Your pool and spa must be closed due to inadequate safety equipment when:

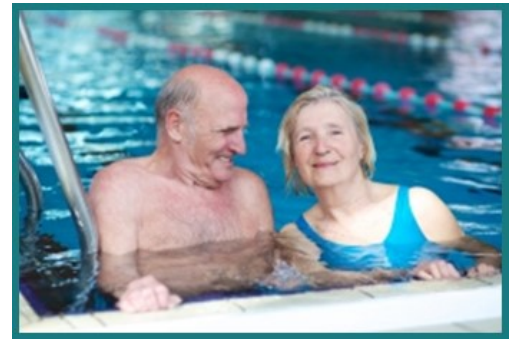
- The anti-entrapment drain covers are damaged, missing or not fully secured.
- The emergency shutoff switch (if required) does not shut off all pumps and sound an audible alarm.

Your pool and spa must be closed due to maintenance when:

- Adding chemicals directly to the water. Closure times dependent on chemical label.
- Responding to a fecal contamination.
- The pump has to be turned off for maintenance.
- There is no one available to test water quality for the day.

Code enforcement decision tree

In 2018, the recreational water safety team worked to map out enforcement protocol. The guide outlines what code violations are considered imminent health hazards that immediately result in a closure versus other critical and non-critical code violations. Note that repeating non-critical violations, such as log keeping and missing weir doors, may now result in closures and fines if not corrected. The best way to avoid closures and fees is to know the rules outlined in WAC 246-260 and make corrections as necessary. Please contact us at DLCntyHealthWaterRec@clark.wa.gov for more information.



Tips for properly closing your pool for the season

When a recreational water facility is closing for the season, the owners are responsible for ensuring the pool does not create a nuisance or disease hazard. This can be done by securing the pool behind locked barriers, covering the pool with an approved safety cover, or marking the pool with a sign and maintaining water quality standards.

If the closed pool is in the same barrier as a year-round pool or spa

- Covered: The pool must be covered with a safety cover meeting ASTM standard F1346-91.
- Uncovered: Post a sign stating the pool is closed. This sign should be located in a conspicuous location. Water quality standards and water clarity must be maintained. Log test results weekly.

If the closed pool does not share a barrier with a year-round pool or spa

- If your closed pool can be secured by locked barriers, this is adequate to prevent the public from accessing the closed pool. Keep in mind, however, that maintaining water quality and clarity standards is recommended to prevent conditions that may attract mosquitoes or other nuisances.

Your recreational water team is here to help!

Your environmental health specialists are here to be your resource! Contact us for any code or inspection related questions.

Email: DICntyHealthWaterRec@clark.wa.gov

Phone: 564.397.8428

We look forward to working with you!

Visit our website

Visit www.clark.wa.gov/public-health or scan the QR code below to find helpful resources including:

- Operation guidelines
- Printable logs for your daily/weekly tests
- Inspection results
- Injury report forms
- Change of ownership form
- Links to resources such as CPO classes and CDC websites



For other formats, contact
the Clark County ADA Office

Voice 564.397.2322
Fax 564.397.6165

Relay 711 or 800.833.6388
Email ADA@clark.wa.gov